



## Vasquez Boulevard & Interstate 70 Superfund Site (VB/I-70)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 8 • FALL 2006

### Residential Soils Project Completion

#### Project Update:

The investigation and cleanup of lead and arsenic in residential soils in the Vasquez Boulevard & Interstate 70 Superfund site (VB/I-70) is finished. EPA sampled and cleaned up the final yards of the project in August 2006. ***EPA is no longer offering soil sampling or cleanup to area property owners.***

EPA would like to thank the property owners with homes in the VB/I-70 boundaries who participated in this cleanup program. EPA was able to sample the yards of 97 percent, or 4,315 residences, of the 4,470 residences within the VB/I-70 boundaries. EPA then removed and replaced the soil at 761 of those yards because lead and/or arsenic levels in those yards were above our cleanup levels.

#### Next Steps:

- If your house was built before 1978, it potentially has exterior lead-based paint. Even if EPA sampled and/or removed and replaced your soil, your soil could still become contaminated or recontaminated by peeling, exterior lead-based paint. For this reason, EPA suggests that you minimize your exposure to soil in areas near your house, particularly near areas where paint appears to be chipping or peeling.
- If EPA did not sample your yard soil, there are private laboratories that will test samples from your yard for a small price.

You can find area laboratories at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/down/leadservices.pdf> EPA suggests that you choose samples from areas of your yard where you would most likely be exposed to high lead or arsenic levels. Those areas include areas near the house or in bare-dirt play areas, or in areas where lawn care products have been repeatedly applied over time. EPA Community Health Program Workers can provide you with basic information on how to minimize exposure to lead or arsenic in your yard soil. Or you can contact one of the EPA representatives listed in the contact box below.

#### Contacts

For questions regarding your property, please contact:

Jennifer Chergo, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (303) 312-6601, [chergo.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:chergo.jennifer@epa.gov), or

Patricia Courtney, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (303) 312-6631, [courtney.patricia@epa.gov](mailto:courtney.patricia@epa.gov)

or visit the VB/I-70 Superfund Site Website at: <http://www.epa.gov/region08/superfund/co/vbi70>

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(303) 312-6384

## Background:

In 1998, EPA began an investigation of potential metals contamination in an area that eventually included the Cole, Clayton, Swansea, Elyria, and parts of Globeville and Curtis Park neighborhoods. This became the VB/I-70 Superfund Site.

Lead and arsenic were the two metals identified to be of potential concern in some yards. Based on the investigation, EPA issued its final cleanup decision in 2003. EPA then began removing and replacing soil in yards where sampling results showed more than 400 parts per million (ppm) for lead and/or 70 ppm for arsenic.

The VB/I-70 Superfund Site cleanup for residential soils has been a collaborative effort since its beginning. The work was a partnership among EPA, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, the Denver Department of Environmental Health, the community group CEASE, Inc., and many other federal, state, and local agencies, associations and individuals.

The VB/I-70 Superfund Site cleanup was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. In addition, the project included unique features, tailored to the local community. These included an external lead-based paint assessment and abatement program and the Community Health Program.

In the Community Health Program, residents of the affected neighborhoods train as community health workers and talk with their neighbors about environmental health issues, focusing on lead paint.

### Information Box for Homeowners

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The property at \_\_\_\_\_  
Falls into the following category:

Sampled and cleaned up \_\_\_\_\_

Sampled and no cleanup necessary \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

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